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USE OF ACETAS PLUMBI IN SEVERAL PULMONARY AFFECTIONS.

CASE I.—A woman, aged 32, of a phthisical constitution, was laboring under the symptoms of general pyrexia, accompanied with frequent cough and purulent bloody expectoration. She had suffered a smart attack of pleuritis twelve months before, and from that time had become considerably emaciated. A small bleeding and the employment of sal ammoniac, with small doses of the tart. antimon. and an occasional powder of calomel, relieved the fever and dyspnœa; the sputa were now free of any blood, but became more and more purulent. I ordered her the acetas plumbi and opium (of each 1-4 gr.) every eight hours, and in the course of eight days she was astonishingly improved. Under the use of a decoction of lichen and polygala amara (boiled together till a complete jelly is formed), she quite recovered her health.

CASE II.—A man, aged 33, who had suffered repeatedly from attacks of pneumonia, was again laboring under its symptoms; they had lasted for seven days, when Dr. R. was called. By large bleedings and the use of nitre, combined with tart. antimon. in aqua laurocerasi, the inflammation was speedily arrested; but there remained a most copious expectoration, and the sputa were assuming a more purulent appearance. Pills, composed of the acetas plumbi and opium, were given with very marked benefit; the use of them was continued for six weeks, after which time the patient was entirely well.

CASE III.—A child, five years old, had been treated by many different physicians for a phthisical irritation of the lungs, with repeated blisters, leeches, and the use of digitalis. The little patient expectorated a vast quantity of sputa, when I ordered him the following:—

R. Sacchari saturni, gr. ij.
Infus. digitalis, unc. vj.
Laudani liquidi, ʒj. Misce.

Capt. 3ij. ad 3iv. 6ta vel 4ta quaque hora.

In three days the expectoration was greatly diminished, and the boy improved in other respects. He speedily was quite well.

CASE IV.—May 15th. B. W. aged 44, a professional musician, after exposure to cold, was seized with shiverings, followed by heat, with severe pain in the chest, laborious respiration, cough, and frothy discolored expectoration. Venesection to a pint, and repeated doses of nitre and antimony ordered.

16th.—All the symptoms aggravated; blood exhibiting a thick buffy coat—venesection to be repeated. While the blood was flowing, he felt himself much relieved; but immediately afterwards all his distress

returned ; the frothy sputa were in enormous quantities, so that the patient could with difficulty expectorate—the mucous rattle was exceedingly loud, and the breathing was much oppressed. A grain of calomel, and three of the red sulphuret of antimony, were ordered to be given every two hours, and the refrigerant mixture to be continued.

Little or no relief, however, was procured ; the gurgling and rattling in the chest were truly frightful—the sputa were still frothy and tinged with pure blood, and their expectoration was painful and distressing. The bleeding from the arm was repeated once more, in consequence of the blood having presented, on both occasions, a very thick and tough crust ; but no advantage followed, and being now fearful that the accumulation of the sputa in the air-cells, and the co-existing infiltration of the substance of the lungs, might speedily suffocate the patient, I resolved to commence the use of the *acetas plumbi* and opium. Three grains of the salt were dissolved in six oz. of cherry-laurel water, and half a drachm of laudanum added ; a tablespoonful every three hours. In the evening the symptoms were already much relieved, the expectoration less, and more easy, and the pulse reduced to 90 beats. Occasional delirium occurred ; but having observed frequently, in many formidable cases, that this symptom appeared on the supervention of a critical change, I was rather pleased than distressed at its occurrence.

17th.—Amendment has gone on progressively ; delirium less frequent and continued—pectoral symptoms much more easy—breathing almost natural—pulse 75—skin perspiring comfortably.

The medicine being now discontinued for two days, a relapse of all the distress returned, cough, dyspnoea, difficult expectoration, and great anxiety ; fortunately, by immediately resuming the medicine as before, the symptoms were once more subdued, and the cure was completed under the use of a jelly prepared of lichen and the *polygala amara*.

CASE V.—A woman, aged 58, had labored under an inflammatory affection of the chest for eight days, when Dr. R. was summoned to her assistance. She had alternate chills and heats, pain in the side, short distressing cough, very scanty expectoration, and great anxiety. The pulse was 80, soft and weak. The pain and feverish symptoms were relieved by bleeding and the use of *digitalis*, with nitre. On the following day there was a return of her distress, and recourse was, therefore, had again to bloodletting ; the blood at both times was strongly buffed. But although the stitch in the side was assuaged, the general condition of the patient was decidedly worse. She could not lie down, but was obliged to sit up constantly ; the cough was exceedingly distressing, and the anxiety much aggravated ; she occasionally rambled in her talk ; the pulse was 100, soft, pappy, and intermitting, and the general strength very low. She was now ordered a tablespoonful of the following mixture every four hours.

R. Extract. *digitalis purpur.* gr. iv.
Aquæ cerasi nigri. unc. ij.
Plumbi acetatis, gr. j.
Laudani liq. sed. gtt. xv. M.

Next (18th) morning, a decided amendment ; the dyspnoea and cough less frequent ; expectoration had commenced ; some sleep during the

night. The medicine to be continued, and veal broth to be allowed. From this time she gradually recovered her health.

CASE VI.—A thin debilitated man, who had suffered repeatedly from attacks of pulmonary catarrh, was laboring under severe harassing cough, attended with a copious muco-purulent expectoration, when he applied to Dr. R. The mixture, with digitalis, sugar of lead, and opium, was immediately ordered for him; and in the course of five or six days, he had nearly quite recovered.

CASE VII.—A woman, aged 32, after exposure to cold, was seized with violent pneumonic symptoms, to which were added repeated attacks of severe cardialgia. She was five months gone with child. She was bled largely, and treated with small doses of tartar-emetic and nitre. The pectoral distress was somewhat alleviated, but that of the stomach much increased by the remedies; and, as the pregnancy was deemed a proper objection to very copious bleedings, the mixture, consisting of three grains of acetate of lead in six oz. of infusion of digitalis, was ordered for her, in doses of a tablespoonful every four hours.

After the third dose, the dyspnoea was decidedly relieved—the pulse less frequent, but the cough still very troublesome. The cardialgia had not returned; the expectoration, which hitherto had been “*cruentus croceus*,” was more of the character to which the epithet “*costus*” is applied.

Although there was a relapse of the severe symptoms, which required a small venesection, and an increase of the doses of the mixture, and although abortion came on in a few days afterwards, the patient progressively improved; the expectoration had become easy and moderately copious, the pulse soft, and the general pyrexia much abated. A miliary or aphthous eruption had appeared on the hips, and in the mouth and fauces; but this also gradually vanished.

A febrile reaction threatened to set in on the following week; but its advance was checked by repeated doses of the liquor kali acet. in bitter almond emulsion, and by six grains of Dover’s powder at bed-time. In the course of a short time she became (to use the German expression) kernel-sound, sound to the very bone and marrow.

CASE VIII.—T. P. aged 40, was seized on the 22d November with alternate heats and chills, with severe pain in the side, increased by full inspiration, and with a strangling cough, which returned frequently in paroxysms of great violence; these paroxysms often lasting for a quarter of an hour at a time. The patient could only lie upon his back, and even in that posture was continually panting for breath. He was immediately bled from the arm, and a refrigerant nauseating mixture, with small doses of calomel, given frequently.

Under this treatment he went on improving, till the morning of the 24th, when he was found considerably worse; intolerable wandering pain, like the stabs of a knife through the chest—cough harsh and very severe—skin parched, and occasional delirium. A blister was applied to the chest, and a mixture with camphor, opium, and nitre, ordered to be given every second hour. Although some relief was obtained from these means, the pneumonic symptoms were not satisfactorily subdued till recourse was had to the *acetas plumbi*, with opium.

About a dozen other cases, similar in most respects to those which we have detailed, are brought forward by our author to confirm the good opinion which he has formed of the effects of lead, opium, and digitalis combined, in inflammatory affections of the lungs.

Few English readers will be inclined to be of as great faith as their German brother; still we must fairly admit, that as the sugar of lead is undeniably known to possess very considerable sanative powers in hæmoptysis, it is but probable that in pneumonia, bronchitis, and hectic irritation, it may have a certain range of efficacy.

Our author informs us that he is disposed to believe that the remedy exerts its influence chiefly on the smaller and capillary vessels; and he therefore always premises bleeding and other depletory measures, in order that the morbidly increased action of the heart and larger arteries may be considerably reduced. He has derived very pleasing results from its administration in all cases where the quantity of sputa is very large; it seems to exert a direct astringent power on the mucous membranes of the bronchi.

In asthma, it has been also of great service, by relieving the distressing dyspnoea, and in facilitating the critical discharge from the lungs. A case of severe chronic cystitis is mentioned, where exceedingly good effects were obtained from its employment, after the ordinary treatment had utterly failed. Reasoning from analogy, he is led to anticipate the same advantages in sanguineous apoplexy, which is, in an especial manner, a disease of the arterial red blood capillaries. When there is a tendency to serous effusion, either in the brain, or into the substance of the lungs, the remedy is not to be employed; it is the "plastic," and not the "exhaling," action of the vessels, or to borrow the German phrase, it is the "*hypercrystallizatio animalis*" which is under the control of lead.

[The late Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, highly praised the use of *acetas plumbi* in menorrhagia, threatened abortion, &c. &c.]

Rust's Magazin für die gesammte Heilkunde, from Med.-Chir. Rev.

THE VAPOR CAVE AT PYRMONT, SIMILAR TO THE GROTTO DEL CANE AT NAPLES.

THIS cave is situated at a distance of about 800 feet from the well-known mineral spring of the same name. It is not a natural formation, but was hollowed out and fitted up, in the year 1720, by Dr. Seip, whose attention was drawn to the place by the quantity of suffocating vapor exhaled from the fissures of the rock. Similar streams of gas issue from many places in the immediate neighborhood of the cave, and from the mineral waters themselves, giving them a sparkling and effervescent quality. The geological characters of the ground are, that it belongs to the variegated sandstone formation, and that it consists of marle and ferruginous sandstone. The stream of gas is constant, but the quantity issuing varies much at different times; so that the height of the gaseous layer above the surface may be from one to eight, or even twelve feet. It is generally highest soon after sunrise and sunset in clear warm weather, or at the approach of a storm—also during a hoar frost in Winter, during which

the vapor atmosphere has stood so high over the mouth of the mineral springs, that children, and even adults, have fallen down asphyxiated while attempting to draw the water.

The gas is sour to the taste, and has a suffocative smell ; the relative quantities of the carbonic acid and of common air vary, according to the level from the ground at which we collect the gas : at the bottom, it consists of 48 parts of pure carbonic acid, and of 52 of air—at three feet, the proportion of the former was only $36\frac{1}{2}$; there is no admixture of any sulphureous gas. With regard to the effects which it produces upon animal life, we may state generally that it is a very exciting, momentarily-irritating, heating, and antiseptic agent ; a pleasant tingling warmth is experienced in the limbs ; if the person stoops down, he is soon sensible of the sourish taste, and of a pricking in his eyes and nose ; he becomes oppressed and dizzy, his breathing is laborious, and the pulse is much quickened ; these symptoms become gradually more and more aggravated, until complete asphyxia be induced.

The poisonous force of the Pymont Cave is, however, much inferior to that of the Grotto del Cane, or of the "Poison Valley" of Java, although the agent of destruction be the same in all, varying only in the relative proportion of its quantity. When the carbonic acid gas is nearly pure, or much exceeds that of the combined atmospheric air, it produces, if inspired, a spasm of the rima glottidis, and thus the entrance of the air is quite stopped up, and speedy death necessarily ensues. Such phenomena have been observed in animals taken into the Dog Grotto and the Poison Valley. The following experiments were made at the Pymont Cave.

Exp. 1.—A rabbit was introduced. In 50 seconds it became convulsed ; in a minute and a half it lay motionless, and as if dead. Being now taken into the fresh air it soon revived, and in the course of a minute or two had quite recovered itself.

Exp. 2.—A two-years dog was next exposed. The breathing became laborious immediately ; it tottered on its feet, and after a minute fell down, convulsed in its head and extremities—the lips, tongue, gums, and palate were purplish—the eyes open—the pupils dilated. The twitches of the legs became more and more feeble, the breathing shorter and more rapid, and soon altogether abdominal. After four minutes and a quarter, the dog was taken into the open air, and within two minutes had nearly recovered. This dog was afterwards again exposed to the vapor, and kept in it for 31 minutes ; it was then taken out, and sprinkled with water and rubbed. In seven minutes it was again revived.

Exp. 3.—A moderate-sized cat, after four minutes' immersion in the vapor, was taken out ; it revived in two minutes. Being again exposed for 15 minutes, it was found to be quite dead.

Exp. 4.—A six-years old shepherd's dog was then confined in the vapor. After being an hour and seven minutes there, the irritability of the wide-opened eye was altogether extinguished ; but the breathing was still perceptible, by a feeble intermittent motion of the under jaw ;—it became gradually weaker and weaker, but did not cease altogether until nearly three hours from the beginning of the experiment had elapsed.

It thus appears that the vapor of the Pymont Cave is only slowly fatal

to animals of moderate bulk; the death induced by breathing carbonic acid seems to be not a painful one; a stupefaction speedily follows a short-lived excitement. Those who have willingly exposed themselves for a few minutes to its influence, state that they might have died in the most tranquil manner, had they not been soon removed from the narcotic atmosphere.

The comparative destructiveness of this cave and of the Grotto del Cane is well seen by the following table:—A dog was killed at the former in 2 hours and 52 minutes—at the latter in 2 minutes. A cat was killed at the former in 15 1-4 minutes—at the latter in 1 3-4 minutes.

In consequence of the suggestion of Baron Graefe, a vapor bath has been established, during the present year, at the Pyrmont Cave, and very considerable advantages are expected from its regulated use. When the vapor is still further diluted with atmospheric air, it may be employed with much service in phthisis, attended with muco-purulent sputa. Confined in contact with the skin, it is useful in removing paralytic weakness, and rheumatic or gouty pains; the perspiration is encouraged, and the cutis acts more healthfully. On a somewhat similar principle, sterility, amenorrhœa, leucorrhœa, &c. may be benefited by its use—also deafness, weak vision, obstinate coryza, and debility or cramps of any of the sensual organs.—*Graefe and Walther's Journal.*

CASE OF EMPYEMA CURED BY PARACENTESIS ALONE.

BY GEORGE WOOLLEY, ESQ.

ON March 14, 1833, I saw George Louch, aged 5 1-2 years; he had been a healthy child till the preceding November. At that time he became the subject of fever, attended with inflammation of the brain, from which he was scarcely convalescent when he had an attack of pleuritis on the left side. He appeared not to have perfectly recovered from the latter. His mother said that there remained cough, accompanied sometimes by pain, want of appetite, and weakness; that he had not since the attack been able to leave the house, had latterly become much worse, and she thought his chest had grown out on the left side. I found him very much emaciated, laboring under hectic fever, pain in the left side, great dyspnoea, harsh dry cough, constant thirst, entire loss of appetite, disturbed sleep and delirium at night. On examining the thorax, it was obvious to the eye that the left side was larger than the right, which was also proved by admeasurement; and there was an even and smooth appearance of that side, from dilatation of the intercostal spaces. The heart was pulsating on the right side, in a situation precisely corresponding with that which it ought to have occupied on the left. On percussion, more or less dullness of sound was observable over the whole of the affected side, but most at its lower part. Auscultation showed the entire absence of respiratory murmur on the left side, anteriorly and laterally; it was heard posteriorly all along the spine, but the sound was less loud than natural, and was accompanied by mucous rattle.

These circumstances seemed sufficiently to indicate that the left pleural cavity was occupied by pus, the lung compressed, and the heart pushed to the right side of the chest; and as the symptoms were urgent, I con-

ceived it to be my duty to remove the fluid by paracentesis, as speedily as possible. Mentioning the case to my late talented friend, Mr. T. Alcock, in the presence of Dr. Roe, of the Westminster Hospital, that able and zealous physician thinking it one of interest, expressed a desire to see it, and be present at the removal of the fluid, which afforded me the advantage of obtaining his valuable opinion. We saw the patient together on the evening of the next day (15th), and Dr. Roe, after a minute investigation of the case, concurring entirely in the opinion I had previously formed, I proceeded to perform the operation.

The child sitting on his mother's lap, and supported by her, a small flat trocar was passed into the thorax, through the interspace between the seventh and eighth ribs, at the part where the digitations of the serratus magnus and external oblique muscles meet. Pus of a healthy character flowed freely through the canula; and two basins full were abstracted, measuring forty-three ounces. A considerable quantity also escaped by the side of the canula, and ran down, wetting the mother's clothes completely through, so that probably not less than three pints altogether came away.

Towards the end of the operation, owing to the child being very unmanageable, it was impossible to prevent a good deal of air from passing into the thorax, which occasioned severe coughing, and ultimately obliged us to remove the canula before the pleural sac was quite empty. The aperture was carefully closed by a strip of adhesive plaister, and the little patient was returned to his bed; he soon felt much relieved, ate half a round of dry toast, and drank some tea, having taken nothing during the preceding twelve days but toast-water. An opiate was given to him, and he had thirteen hours of easy and tranquil sleep. On the following day the hectic fever, thirst, dyspnoea, pain in the side, and cough, had disappeared; and this absence of unpleasant symptoms continued for a few days. But the heart remained on the right side; there was no return of respiratory murmur anteriorly; percussion showed the gradual refilling of the pleural cavity; and the symptoms came back, and were nearly as bad as ever.

On the 28th, thirteen days from the first operation, in the presence of Dr. Roe and another professional friend, the trocar was again introduced, but now between the ninth and tenth ribs, and two inches nearer to the spine. Thirty-eight ounces of pus were abstracted; the puncture was closed as before; the child slept well without an opiate; the symptoms all vanished, not again to reappear; and the little boy was soon playing about his room. Respiratory murmur gradually returned over the whole left side. The heart after some days began to remove to its natural situation, was soon found under the sternum, and in two or three weeks had re-established itself in its right place. As nothing remained after the second removal of the fluid but debility, which was rapidly diminishing, no medicine was given to the child, except once or twice something of an aperient nature when the bowels were not sufficiently open. He is now quite stout and healthy.

The only observation I shall make on this case is, that the rapid and favorable convalescence of the patient appears to me to be attributable to closing and healing the puncture immediately after the operation.

London Medical Gazette.

SMALLPOX, SCARLET FEVER, AND MEASLES.

DESULTORY OBSERVATIONS ON THE SIMILITUDE OF VARIOLA, ROSALIA, AND RUBEOLA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—It has fallen to my lot within a few years to have had the medical care of twenty-three cases of the natural smallpox, and to have seen one other case which terminated fatally. Four of my cases proved mortal. Several of my other cases were very severe, some moderately sick; and one, a lad of twelve years, was so slightly affected, that if he had not been exposed to the same source of infection, with a family in which every other member at that time had taken the complaint, I might not have suspected it to be the smallpox. This boy, however, had some distinct pustules, and for a time in the incipient and entonic stage was delirious.

What struck me with peculiar force and interest, in these cases, was the uniformity and regularity which each case assumed. The first, second, third, fourth, and sometimes the fifth days, it would appear, were occupied in the sanative efforts of the system to expel some morbid virus from the body, because on the appearance of the eruption an abatement of the entonic action would ensue. After the appearance of the eruption, till the eighth or ninth day, the efforts of the system, it would seem, were occupied in perfecting the process by which the variolous poison was to be eliminated from the system. At this period, the pustular eruption being formed, a change in the symptoms and in the pathological state of the system occurred with as much regularity as the vibrations of a clock, or the motion of a good watch. To the primary acknowledged entonic action would succeed a typhoid or atonic state of the system, accompanied with much augmented constitutional irritation. If the natural powers of the body, or the remedial measures adopted, were insufficient to sustain the system in this struggle, death would occur on the 11th or 13th day of the complaint. We know, indeed, that death, in variolous cases, sometimes occurs much earlier; and sometimes the disease is protracted a week or two longer. These early fatal terminations are obviously in consequence of the active congestion of some essential organ. Similar occurrences occasionally happen in the first stages of *Rosalia paristhmica*. Two cases of this nature have fallen under my observation the past year. In one instance, at the onset the congestion occurred in the brain; hemiplegy and convulsions had occurred before my arrival. In the other, death speedily occurred from active congestion or apoplexy of the lungs. In the worst cases of variola which have fallen under my observation, the skin, from passive congestion, as I suppose, according to M. Andral's opinion, becomes livid, accompanied by considerable tumefaction. The scarlet efflorescence of rosalia and rubeola also, in severe cases, gradually changes to a brown, or even black. There is a desquamation of the cuticle, or it is separated from the true skin, in bad cases of variola, by a secretion of sero-purulent matter. An analogous detachment of the cuticle also occurs in rosalia and rubeola. The same periodicity that has been noticed in variola, occurs also in rosalia and rubeola, varying only in its ordinary duration. At the onset, there is the same febrile commotion, succeeded in its time by

an affection of the skin, when a subsidence of the general symptoms occurs. Each species has its regular period of duration, and each has some specific local determination. There is in each of these eruptive febrile diseases, commonly, an affection of the throat, eyes and lungs. The lungs are always affected in variola and in rubeola, and I have seen them labor under disease in rosalia; although the throat appears to be the natural place of severe location for rosalia, and the eyes and lungs for rubeola. The efflorescence in rosalia and rubeola sometimes assumes the same lividity that occurs in variola. Several cases of both these complaints have fallen under my care, in which nothing, apparently, but a few variolous pustules, was wanting to have given the diseases, at least, in appearance, a perfect identity with some malignant cases of confluent smallpox. The corpses of those who die with each of these complaints appear much alike. In each, not unfrequently, the body is swollen and livid. In 1833, I lost a patient who was attacked soon after parturition, in whom the copious scarlet rash gradually assumed such a lividity that the body appeared more like an African than that of a delicate female. It was also so swollen, that nothing but the pustular eruption was wanting to have it appear like a defunct from variola. Although, in these cases, the lividity is evidently owing to torpor of the cutaneous capillaries, its specific character and preceding phenomena give it an essentially different character, pathologically regarded, from that which occurs from ordinary torpor or exhaustion. This genus of diseases, also, are alike in being contagious—in occurring epidemically and sporadically—and at some periods or seasons being much more fatal than at others; and even at the most fatal visitations, they resemble each other in being very diverse in their severity. Under the same circumstances, some cases will prove severe—some fatal, and some will be hardly indisposed, and yet have all the essential characteristics of the prevailing epidemic, whether it is variola, rosalia, or rubeola. All these facts afford satisfactory proof, in my mind, that, if there is not a *pathological identity* in these complaints, there is certainly a *strong similitude*. They may be regarded as *different grades of the same pathological state of the system*, varied by the specific character of the cause from which they arise, so much as to produce distinct species of the same genus of diseases. In their common malignity, they may not inappropriately be represented as the squares of a given number. Thus, if Rubeola be stated at 2, Rosalia would be 4, and Variola 8, in the graduation of disease. This arithmetical calculation, although arbitrary, will probably give some idea of the varied intensity of these diseases.

From these facts, it may be inferred, that as smallpox at the onset, as well as the measles, requires an antiphlogistic course of medication; the scarlet fever, either with or without the throat affection, does also—and that each species, when of much severity, ultimately requires stimulant and tonic remedies. This is in accordance with my experience in rosalia, which I may be permitted to say, without boasting, has been very considerable. Rosalia, being of the same kind of diseased action as variola, it is obvious, requires analogous treatment.

Yours, &c.

J. A. ALLEN.

Middlebury, Vt. February, 1834.

LETTER FROM DR. FISH ON THE BOTANY-BAY GUM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—In your Journal of the 28th of August, 1833, is a letter from Dr. Hazeltine, of Lynn, in which he expresses a wish that some of your correspondents would inform him what are the virtues of the "*Acoroides resinifera*," or Botany-Bay Gum. As I have made some use of the article for a few years, and as no one, so far as I know, has answered the call, I communicate the results of my experience with *acoroides*, in the hope they will be of service to the profession.

This article, which is known by a variety of names, is the produce of the *Zanthorrhœa hastilis*, a shrub, or small tree, a native of New Holland. It is mentioned in "*Quincy's Lexicon Medicum*," by Robert Hooper, M.D. Philadelphia, 1817, under the name "*Resina Lutea Novi Belgii*;" and the article, thus referred to, contains the only published account I have ever seen of the medicinal effects of this resin.

I have used it occasionally for the last eight years, and I believe always with benefit. It certainly possesses much efficacy in restraining hepatic diarrhœa, and is a most important auxiliary to opium. Alone it will restrain and cure moderate cases, but it is inadequate to the cure of those which are severe. There is a set of cases of hepatic or bilious diarrhœa, in which opium is the appropriate remedy, and in most of which it proves sufficient for their cure, or at least opium so far overcomes the disease as to afford opportunity for the use of other articles which complete the cure. But in some of these cases, opium, although the appropriate remedy, and though it be given in such doses as to produce its specific effects in some degree, yet fails to cure the diarrhœa. In such instances I think I have found more benefit, and that too of a decided and palpable character, from *Zanthorrhœa*, in conjunction with opium, than from any other articles of the *materia medica* which I have ever used. And this benefit has resulted generally in a prompt and effectual manner. Many patients, who labor under a chronic functional derangement of the liver, are habitually subject to diarrhœa; and in some of these cases, the diarrhœa itself becomes a chronic disease. In all cases of this kind I use the *Zanthorrhœa*, in preference to any other article, except opium; and in many of them opium will not be required. I have frequently had occasion to take it myself for this kind of diarrhœa, attended with great irritation of the bowels, and always with entire relief. If I used it immediately on an attack, it has removed the complaint without opium: if deferred for a short time, I have found it necessary to join small quantities of opium with it. I have always noticed that after its use, the stomach and bowels were invigorated, the secretions soon becoming natural, and that the appetite and digestive powers were increased and strengthened. I have used it in but one instance of diarrhœa attending a fever; and that was a case of typhus syncopalis, in which the lax was very severe, and resisted the use of ordinary means. It soon yielded to the *Zanthorrhœa*, and the patient recovered.

In one case of neuralgia of the infra-orbital nerve, attended with a deranged state of the digestive organs, a few doses of this resin removed the complaint, after opium, conium, and other narcotics had failed to

give relief. In a few cases of that diarrhœa, which attends the latter stages of phthisis pulmonalis, I have used the Zanthorrhœa with much good effect ; having found it to restrain those profuse evacuations better than mucilages and astringents, or than opium.

I have administered it only in the form of tincture, which is prepared by dissolving two ounces of the resin in a pound of alcohol ; and of this a fluid drachm may be taken three, four, or six times in a day, in about an ounce of milk. I have never given at once over two drachms, and this quantity did not produce nausea or any unpleasant symptoms.

Salisbury, Ct. Feb. 18, 1834.

HENRY FISH.

SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE IN SCARLET FEVER.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MR. EDITOR,—A disease is prevailing extensively in the South at this time as an epidemic, under the garb of scarlet fever ; it is confined in its attacks generally to children of from one to twelve years of age, and is no doubt the genuine *scarlatina*—a disease which seldom makes its appearance in this part of the country.

The mildness of the last summer seemed not to have checked its progress, or mitigated its violence. Its ravages were uncontrollable, and its fatality defied all medical skill. Many a tender and endearing object has been snatched with a ruthless hand from the fond embraces and cares of its watchful parent ; and oft has the joyful family circle been suddenly turned into a group of sorrowful mourners, by the sad visitations of this alarming and obstinate disease.

I am always willing, Sir, to contribute, however humbly it may be, my little mite in aid of the suffering and distressed ; and if the remedy I am about to propose should even be the means of affording relief to one single unfortunate sufferer, I shall feel amply rewarded for this little trouble.

My experience in the use of Spirits of Turpentine in Scarlet Fever extends only to a few cases, but in these few cases its results have been highly satisfactory and pleasing. My plan of administering this remedy is simple, and if properly managed will be an efficient aid in conducting the patient safely through the disease. As soon as I find the disease has made its attack, or as soon thereafter as the paroxysms of fever have somewhat subsided, I administer from ten or fifteen drops to a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine (according to the age of the patient), with one, two, or three teaspoonfuls of castor oil, mixed together ; and this I repeat every day, or sufficiently often to keep the eruption full on the surface.

In a few of the cases in which I have administered spirits of turpentine in scarlet fever, where the eruptions had only slightly and partially appeared, it acted like a charm ; the whole surface soon became covered with the rash, and my patients greatly relieved of an inordinate oppression, no less disagreeable than dangerous. I found it invariably the case, that whenever the eruption, or in fact the disease itself, was kept on the skin, its natural situation, until a crisis was produced, the patient usually escaped those disagreeable and obstinate symptoms, such as chronic

diarrhœa, dropsy, &c., produced by a determination of the disease to the more important internal viscera.

I hope it will not be presumed that I view this remedy as infallible ; yet I do believe, if rightly and judiciously administered in this disease, according to its symptoms and appearances in this section of the country, it will prove to be a most valuable and successful one. It must be recollected that we are mortals, and all remedies will sometimes fail ; when death marks his victim, the art and ingenuity of man sinks into insignificance before that power which pronounced the awful decree.

It is desired that the profession give it a fair trial, in the best mode and form which their judgment may dictate. And this is my object in requesting you to give these remarks a place in your very useful and widely circulated Journal.

I am very respectfully, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD DELONY.

Talbotton, Geo. Feb. 22d, 1834.

REMARKABLE LOCATION OF PARTURIENT PAINS.

BY CHANDLER ROBBINS, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE succession in the locality of the pains of parturition is so regular and uniform, that any considerable deviation from their common order, excites the notice of every accoucheur.—Such deviations may be interesting in a pathological point of view, or merely as matter of curiosity or speculation. Of this latter description is the case which I wish here to record.

The lady who was the subject of this case usually enjoys good health. With the exception of occasional headaches, she has seldom been ill, except at the periods of her confinement. She has had three children, at the birth of all which I have assisted her. The eldest is about seven years old, and the youngest about as many months. Her labors have been severe, and lasted from six to ten hours ; but in no period of either have the pains been referred to the back or the groin, or the uterine region. They have all been confined to the muscles around, and particularly in front of the *femur*. They have been most severe about midway between the upper and lower extremity of this bone. Here she has solicited pressure, and here, at the commencement of each pain, her own hand has been involuntarily placed. In every other character but their *location*, the pains have been such as we always find them ; but to this location they have been confined—no sensation of pain having been at any time referred to the vicinity of the uterus.

This case may stand on record as undeniable. The lady is altogether above deception or pretence. Her moral sense is of the highest order ; and being accustomed to the most refined society she would shrink from, rather than court, any notoriety on a subject of this nature.

It may not be amiss to add that the after-pains have also been confined to the same region. Dr. Dewees remarks in an article on after-pains, in that excellent compend, Dr. Hays' *Cyclopedia*, that he once knew after-pains located in the knee ; and once, in the jaw.

Boston, March 14, 1834.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MARCH 19, 1834.

ON KEEPING AND REARING LEECHES.

M. LANGUES, an apothecary of Dornmich, recommends a box to be made of old, well seasoned and dry pine wood, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ell long, 1 ell broad, and 1 deep ; the wood must be 1 inch thick, and charred to a small depth on the inside ; a framed cover of coarse linen must be attached with hinges, and handles on the sides ; it must be bound with iron and painted. In this box he placed some green sod taken from ditches where leeches are usually found, and in a second experiment he used black bog, earth, and loam : in either case some herbage is necessary, as its growth wards off putrefaction. He also recommends small pieces of charcoal to be occasionally added for the same purpose. The earth must be laid an inch thick, and a blank border left all round, besides a space of about 6 inches by 4, for the water to drain into. On the surface of the sod he placed a quantity of sweet flag, which soon took root and spread. About 400 large leeches were put into this box on the 20th of May, 1832, and the surface every day moistened in a moderate degree with soft water, and that which had collected in the empty space before mentioned was daily removed ; the box must remain closed for two or three weeks, and when opened in that interval for watering it must be carefully done, as the leeches are often found adhering to the top : but after that time they have nestled themselves in the mud and soil, and never appear at the top, and the door may safely be left open in summer for some time to air the box. The leeches in this experiment were found to aggregate in holes among the earth, and about the 24th of June a number of eggs were found, which propagation lasted about a fortnight, and somewhat more than 200 were collected, but no more were perceived for the succeeding three weeks. After the lapse of that period, however, a fresh production was observed, and ten or fifteen eggs were daily found on the warted grass until the end of August, about which period the leeches begin to change their coats by casting off a fine white skin, which, when half thrown off, may easily be detached from the rest of the body by the finger.

During the summer the vegetation must be daily softened with fresh water, which should be kept to the height of two inches, and the old water removed, as the slime the leeches throw out is liable to putrid fermentation, the effluvium of which is injurious to them. The ova were collected and placed in another box between layers of bog turf, and slightly moistened ; from this trial 520 leeches were generated, and M. L. thinks more would have resulted had the collection been made earlier in the season, as from his observations the animal lays its eggs three or four times every season. Six weeks at least pass before these leeches come to perfection ; they appear to be nourished by the slime which covers the egg, and in which, after their departure, white maggots with a black proboscis are found, changing into small flies.

Although leeches will suck blood a few weeks after birth, they are not, when thus engendered in an artificial situation, to be considered as useful for medical purposes till they have arrived at three years growth ; from de-

fault of blood, whereon they thrive, it will therefore be expedient to provide them with a frog, whose limbs should be bound down, whereon they will fasten, and suck the blood until he dies, when they quit the corpse, which must immediately be removed.

Leeches, fatigued by long carriage, should not be kept in water, but in fresh moist earth or mud. Perhaps it would be better to convey them in a mixture of moist black earth, loam, and charcoal.

Wet moss is perhaps the best medium for the deposition of their eggs, though not the best for their nature, which requires earthy matter as well as water.

The breeding of leeches is become a matter of great consequence, when we consider their important use, and the scarcity, which is alarmingly increased from the great number required. The establishment of natural nursery ditches is on many accounts unavailing, as they become infested with water rats, and other destructive animals.

A FŒTUS BREATHING AND CRYING IN UTERO.

DR. KENNEDY, in his treatise on Obstetric Auscultation, records the following very remarkable fact; the only one of the kind we recollect ever to have met with, which depends on authority very unquestionable.

I was called up one night by an intelligent pupil in the hospital, who informed me that a very strange sound was observed to come from a patient in labor, resembling exactly the whine of a child.

On going into the labor ward, I found the nurses and pupils surrounding a patient's couch with outstretched necks, listening with greatest intensity and amazement; and on approaching within about six feet of the bed, I distinctly heard a low moaning whine, resembling the faint and painful cry of a delicate seven months child; this became more distinct the nearer I approached the patient, and there could be no doubt whatever that it came from the abdomen of the woman on the couch, however produced. Still sceptical, I applied the stethoscope, when the fact was proved beyond a doubt, as not only the cry mentioned, but the labored respiration of the fœtus, was perfectly audible. A vaginal examination was instituted, and the head was found presenting, but high in the pelvis. The parts were only partially dilated, although the membranes were ruptured, and the waters had drained off shortly before. This woman was not delivered for four hours, and the above phenomena were observed by several of the pupils, up to the time of the child's birth. This patient's name was Morell, the date of her delivery the 2nd of December, 1830.

This case not only establishes a curious, we had almost said incredible fact, but in a medico-legal point of view is of some importance, and shows in a striking manner the futility of some of the tests most depended on in child murder.

AUSCULTATION IN THE REVIVAL OF STILLBORN CHILDREN.

THE same author remarks that in several cases of stillborn infants, when, to all appearance, any further attempts to establish vitality would have been fruitless, he has discovered, by means of the stethoscope, some action in the child's heart; and being thus encouraged to persevere, has been rewarded by ultimate success. This fact is of great value, and should not be forgotten. It is one of the best uses yet made of the stethoscope,

since, in this case, it can scarcely give erroneous or even uncertain evidence. Dr. Mackintosh, of Edinburgh, a physician of talent and eminence, has adopted this mode of instruction with like happy results.

LEGISLATIVE PATRONAGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

From the proceedings of Congress on Tuesday, March 11, we copy the following brief discussion, relative to the experiments of Dr. Beaumont, an account of which we have already given the reader.

The appropriation for the Medical Staff having been read—

Mr. E. Everett moved to amend the bill by inserting, for extra allowance to Surgeon Beaumont, \$1825.

Mr. E. remarked, that he was instructed by the Joint Library Committee to propose this, as a remuneration for expenses incurred by him, in making experiments on a soldier of the army, to illustrate the digestive system of human economy.

Mr. Chilton bore testimony to the merits of the work, and supported the amendment, as the experiments made would be the means of saving thousands to the public.

Mr. Crockett said, Sir, I ask, as there is an experiment trying upon the currency, what possible objection ought there to be to one on science.

The amendment was agreed to ; ayes 80, noes 50.

DR. HAYS' CYCLOPEDIA.

The third Part of this work has been received, and merits all the praise which has been everywhere bestowed on the preceding parts. The same writers who have aided Dr. H. before, have continued their labors in the present fasciculus, but a greater part of the work is from the pen of the editor himself, and displays a degree of industry as well as intelligence, well meriting the respect and attention of the profession. It carries us from "Adynamia" to "Amber," including about eighty subjects.

Chloric Ether—New Remedy for Spasmodic Asthma.—We inserted in our Journal for January last, some interesting experiments with the Chloric Ether. In a note to the editor of the London Medical Gazette, Dr. Black says—"I may here take the opportunity of mentioning, that there is another article brought into medical use by our American brethren, which promises to be of service in spasmodic asthma, and in adynamic states of the nervous system, with or without fever ; not forgetting that it is one of the most agreeable and diffusive cordials we can make use of. It is one of the new products of the chemical kingdom, called *chloric ether*, resulting from one of the many combinations in which the simple elements of ether are disposed to unite with different proportionals of chlorine. It may be easily procured for medical use by distilling over, in a glass retort with a long neck kept very cool, dry chloride of lime fully saturated and covered over with alcohol. The liquid thus driven over is a solution of a new substance, the chloride of carbon in alcohol. It is perfectly limpid and pure, having a fragrant ethereal smell, with a faint yet pleasant perception of chlorine. Its most sensible property is, however, its delightfully sweet and vinous taste, and when diluted with water, forms one of the finest cordials in any materia medica.

I have used it frequently in doses of about half a drachm, according to

its strength, and from my short experience I am disposed to think it will be of more positive benefit than any of the muriatic or sulphuric ethers, and well worthy the attention of the medical practitioners of this country."

Mr. Joseph Balch, Providence, R. I.—and Mr. Lemuel Dwell, Augusta, Geo. are authorized to receive money due for the Medical Journal.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending March 14, 24. Males, 15—Females, 9.
Of dropsy on the brain, 1—drowned, 1—consumption, 6—teething, 1—convulsions, 1—hooping cough, 1—infantile, 1—disease of the spine, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—child-bed, 2—enlargement of the heart, 1—dysentery, 1—throat discharges, 1—lung fever, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—old age, 1—rheumatic fever, 1—erysipelas, 1.

Died in this city, on the 14th inst. Edward A. Cotton, aged 20, son of Hon. John Cotton.

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January 29.

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